Helper T-Cell Epitopes

How to Use Part II:

Section 1: HIV Helper T-cell Epitope Tables and Maps

This section summarizes HIV-specific helper T-cell (Th) epitopes arranged sequentially according to their location on the genome, organized by protein. We attempted to make this section as comprehensive as possible, requiring that the epitope be contained within a region of approximately 30 amino acids maximum, but not that the precise boundaries be defined. The HLA specificity is usually not defined for Th epitopes.

TABLES: Each Th epitope has a six-part basic entry:

- **Location:** The amino acid positions of the epitope boundaries and the reference sequence are listed as given in the primary publication. Frequently, these positions as published are imprecise, and do not truly correspond to the numbering of the sequence, but they provide a reasonable guide to the peptide's approximate location in the protein. Also, in some cases the reference sequence identification was not provided. If the primary authors did not provide the epitope location, this field is left blank.

- **WEAU Location:** The viral strain WEAU is used as a reference strain throughout this publication. The position of the defined epitope's location on the the sequence on the WEAU protein is indicated. The numbering corresponds to the protein maps in this publication.

- **Epitope:** The amino acid sequence of the epitope of interest as defined in the reference, based on the reference strain used in the study defining the epitope. On rare occasions, when only the epitope location and not the actual epitope was specified in the original publication, and the sequences were numbered inaccurately by the primary authors, we may have misrepresented the epitope's amino acid sequence. Therefore, epitopes that were not explicitly written out in the text in the primary publication, which we determined by looking up the reference strain and the numbered location, are followed by a question mark in the table.

- **Antigen:** The antigenic stimulus of the Th response to the defined epitope.

- **Species(HLA):** The species responding and HLA specificity of the epitope, when known.

- **Reference**

Following each entry for a given Th epitope is a brief comment explaining the context of the study that defined the epitope. If the same epitope was studied in several labs, each study is cited in its own entry.

MAP:
The location and HLA restriction elements of Th epitopes are indicated on protein sequences of the WEAU clone 1.60. This map is meant to provide the relative location of epitopes on a given protein, but the WEAU sequence may not actually carry the epitope of interest, as it may vary relative to the sequence for which the epitope was defined.
WEAU is described in part I, on page 2.

Section 2: References